



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Amendment

LCO No. 3874

SB0015603874SD0

Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. GERRATANA, 6th Dist.
SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.
SEN. COLEMAN, 2nd Dist.
SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.
SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.
SEN. DOYLE, 9th Dist.
SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.
SEN. SUZIO, 13th Dist.
REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.
REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.
REP. WOOD, 141st Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 156

File No. 405

Cal. No. 292

**"AN ACT CONCERNING SIBLING VISITATION FOR CHILDREN IN
THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 17a-10a of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

5 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall ensure that a
6 child placed in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to
7 an order of temporary custody or an order of commitment is provided
8 visitation with such child's parents and siblings, unless otherwise
9 ordered by the court.

10 (b) The commissioner shall ensure that such child's visits with his or
11 her parents shall occur as frequently as reasonably possible, based
12 upon consideration of the best interests of the child, including the age
13 and developmental level of the child, and shall be sufficient in number
14 and duration to ensure continuation of the relationship.

15 (c) If such child has an existing relationship with a sibling and is
16 separated from such sibling as a result of intervention by the
17 commissioner including, but not limited to, placement in a foster home
18 or in the home of a relative, the commissioner shall, based upon
19 consideration of the best interests of the child, ensure that such child
20 has access to and visitation rights with such sibling throughout the
21 duration of such placement. In determining the number, frequency
22 and duration of [such] sibling visits, the commissioner shall consider
23 the best interests of each sibling, given each child's age and
24 developmental level and the continuation of the sibling relationship. If
25 the child and his or her sibling both reside within the state and within
26 fifty miles of each other, the commissioner shall, within available
27 appropriations, ensure that such child's visits with his or her sibling
28 occur, on average, not less than once per week, unless the
29 commissioner finds that the frequency of such visitation is not in the
30 best interests of each sibling.

31 (d) The commissioner shall include in each child's plan of treatment
32 information relating to the factors considered in making visitation
33 determinations pursuant to this section. If the commissioner
34 determines that such visits are not in the best interests of the child, that
35 the occurrence of, on average, not less than one visit per week with his
36 or her sibling is not in the best interests of each sibling, or that the
37 number, frequency or duration of the visits requested by the child's
38 attorney or guardian ad litem is not in the best interests of the child,
39 the commissioner shall include the reasons for such determination in
40 the child's plan of treatment.

41 (e) On or before October first of each year, the commissioner shall
42 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the select

43 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 44 relating to children, data sufficient to demonstrate compliance with
 45 subsections (a), (c) and (d) of this section.

46 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section,
 47 "Youth Advisory Board" means a board established by each
 48 Department of Children and Families regional office that is comprised
 49 of youth in out-of-home care.

50 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall meet with the
 51 members of each Youth Advisory Board to gather recommendations
 52 for and to draft a "Sibling Bill of Rights", which may include, but not be
 53 limited to, ways to protect the relationships of siblings separated as a
 54 result of said commissioner's intervention and an affirmation by the
 55 department of its commitment to preserve the relationships between
 56 siblings who have been separated from each other while under
 57 department care. On or before October 1, 2013, the commissioner and
 58 members of the Youth Advisory Boards shall submit the Sibling Bill of
 59 Rights to the select committee of the General Assembly having
 60 cognizance of matters relating to children for consideration of possible
 61 legislative action.

62 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall incorporate the
 63 final version of the Sibling Bill of Rights into department policy and
 64 share such policy with each child placed in the care and custody of the
 65 commissioner pursuant to an order of temporary custody or an order
 66 of commitment."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	17a-10a
Sec. 2	from passage	New section

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Sec. 2	from passage	New section